

REMARKS

I. ABSTRACT AMENDMENT

The Abstract has been shortened, to comply with the current maximum of 150 words.

II. INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 1, 18, 35, 51, 78, 94, 121, AND 137 - 103 REJECTION – SEC REFERENCE

A. Improper Motivation for Modifying the SEC reference to Switch from Individual Dial-Up Input to an OMS.

The Office Action (see page 4) supports its proposed modification of the SEC reference thusly:

“SEC does not explicitly disclose wherein the indications of interest are received from an order management system integrated with the central processing system. However, Gutterman discloses an order management system (see the abstract, see figs. 2a-2d, also see the summary of the invention. Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include an integrated OMS to the disclosure of the SEC to make the system as easy as possible to use and compatible with industry accepted practices.”

1. First, the mere fact that order management systems existed does not mean that it would be obvious to integrate such an order management system into the front end of the SEC's individual dial-up matching system. Said another way, the claims do not merely recite an order management system – instead, they explicitly define that the order management system is *integrated* with the central processing system in such a way that indications of interest are received through the order management system into the central processing system. In sum, just because order management systems were around at the time of the invention does not mean that it was obvious to integrate them into the front end of the inventive system in the manner claimed.

2. Second, the Office Action gives no support for its statement that integrating an order management system with the other elements of the inventive system was industry accepted practice at the time the invention was made. The Office Action motivational statement cannot

simply state that something was industry accepted practice without providing any evidence that this was so.

3. Third, the other part of the Office Action's motivational statement – "to make the system as easy as possible to use" – is taken directly from Applicant's specification:

"To make the system as easy as possible to use, the indication requirements of the system may be directly integrated with one or more of the available buy side order management systems..." Published specification, paragraph 185.

This is improper. An applicant's specification cannot be used to support a proposed modification; to do so is impermissible hindsight. *Orthopedic Equipment v. United States*, 217 U.S.P.Q. 193, 199 (C.A.F.C. 1983) forcefully stated that the motivation to modify a reference cannot come from the application itself:

"It is wrong to use the patent in suit (here the patent application) as a guide through the maze of prior art references, combining the right references in the right way to achieve the result of the claims in suit (here the claims pending). Monday morning quarterbacking is quite improper when resolving the question of nonobviousness in a court of law (here the PTO)."

This was also clearly stated in *Uniroyal, Inc. v. Rudkin-Wiley Corp.*, 5 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1434 (C.A.F.C. 1988):

"Where prior-art references require selective combination by the court to render obvious a subsequent invention, there must be some reason for the combination other than the hindsight gleaned from the invention itself. ... Something in the prior art must suggest the desirability and thus the obviousness of making the combination."

Further, MPEP 2143.01 states:

"In determining the propriety of the Patent Office case for obviousness in the first instance, it is necessary to ascertain whether or not the reference teachings would appear to be sufficient for one of ordinary skill in the relevant art having the reference before him to make the proposed substitution, combination, or other modification." *In re Linter*, 458 F.2d 1013, 1016, 173 USPQ 560, 562 (CCPA 1972).

“The mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of making the combination. *In re Mills*, 916 F. 2d 680, 16 USPQ 2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 1990)”.

The Examiner posited during the interview that motivation could be obtained from an applicant's specification if the specification expressly conceded that the proposed modification was known in the prior art. However, that is not the case here. Applicant's specification merely mentions (in the Detailed Description of the Invention, not in the Background of the Invention) that order management systems are available, and lists a few of those systems. It does not in any way state that receiving indications of interest into the invention's central system via an integrated order management system is shown in the prior art. *That is positioned as the Applicant's teaching, not that of the prior art.* Thus, obtaining motivation for such a modification from the Applicant's specification is improper.

B. Even If There Were Proper Motivation for Modifying the SEC reference to Switch from Individual Dial-Up Input to an OMS, Such a Modification Would Not Be Obvious, Because It Would Alter the SEC Reference's Operating Principles.

MPEP 2143.01 states: “If the proposed modification or combination of the prior art would change the principle of operation of the prior art invention being modified, then the teachings of the references are not sufficient to render the claims *prima facie* obvious. *In re Ratti*, 270 F. 2d 810, 123 USPQ 349 (CCPA 1959)”.

In a general sense, the method that users employ to interact with a system – i.e., the method of input – is clearly a basic operating principle of the system. And here, input through individual dial-up connections is a basic operating principle of the LIMITrader system, emphasized time and again in the SEC reference. Just a few examples follow:

- “LIMITrader is a dial-up system. At any time, 24 hours a day, a participant may call up LIMITrader on his existing personal computer using an error checking system and standard telephone circuits.” See Page 5, Section D; Page 9 at *26.
- “LIMITrader functions through the existing public switch -telecommunications network” See Page 5, Section D.

- "Once a participant has logged in, using three separate identification codes and a personal password..." See Page 10 at *30.
- "LIMITrader will dial-up the participant that entered the existing orders." See Page 3 at *8.

Indeed, the LIMITrader system is positioned as advantageous because it is a simple dial-up system that operates on standard telephone circuits, through the existing publicly-available telecom network. Switching the system to an integrated OMS for input purposes would negate these advantages and would instead require the complex integration of secure, private telecom circuits.

C. Switching the SEC Reference from Individual Dial-Up Input to an Integrated OMS Would Defeat The Functionality of Its Individualized Features.

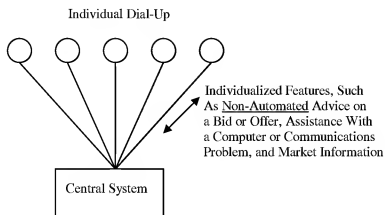
Key portions of the LIMITrader system demand individual interaction with the system – the sort of interaction that is readily available with individuals dialing into the system via their PC, but not via an integrated OMS.

For example, the LIMITrader system offers individual users non-automated assistance, such as advice on a bid or offer, assistance with a computer or communications problem, and market information (see SEC reference, page 9 at n2; page 5 at n10). This can be easily done when individuals dial into the system via their PCs, but not via an integrated OMS which makes use of only the data available in the OMS.

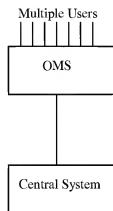
Said another way, when you choose to interpose an OMS between individual users and the central system, you lose the ability to dictate how initial data entry and storage will be done. Instead, you get only the information that is available in the OMS, and you do not get to receive into your central system additional information like individualized non-automated assistance requests. Indeed, the only way to receive such additional information is by also modifying the OMS itself, before integrating it with the central system – and this certainly would not be obvious, given that these OMSs are separately-owned and not freely modifiable.

The diagram below illustrates this point, and the attached declaration of Steven Levy, an expert

in order management systems, substantiates it. Mr. Levy's biography is also attached for reference.



SEC Reference: Users dial into the system via their PCs, and can receive individualized, non-automated advice on many important topics.



SEC Reference With Proposed Integrated OMS: The OMS **blocks** individual interaction with the central system, thus disabling advantageous features.

Modifying the SEC reference to receive indications of interest or prospective transaction entries via an integrated OMS would disable these individualized features – which are important, advantageous parts of the LIMITrader system. A modification which renders the prior art unsatisfactory is simply not obvious, as stated in MPEP 2143.01:

“If [the] proposed modification would render the prior art invention being modified unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, then there is no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification. *In re Gordon*, 733 F.2d 900, 221 USPQ 1125 (Fed. Cir. 1984)”.

In addition to disabling the use of LIMITrader's individualized features, the proposed modification would also negate the advantages, discussed earlier, of a simple dial-up system that operates on standard telephone circuits, through the existing publicly-available telecom network. These simplicity advantages, which allow a great number of users to connect with and use the system easily, without having to have complex software, are clearly an intended purpose of the LIMITrader system, and indeed they are touted in the SEC reference.

Having to weigh the loss of advantageous features against any advantage of a proposed modification is the *essence of nonobviousness*. Said another way, an obvious modification is a “ho-brainer” that doesn’t entail the loss of advantageous features, the weighing of pros and cons, or the advantages of gaining one feature versus losing others. In sum, the proposed modification is clearly not a no-brainer, and is not obvious because it involves significant loss of advantageous features.

D. The Above Arguments Are Separately Applicable.

Applicant wishes to point out that any one of the above arguments establishes nonobviousness. In other words, even if the Examiner believes that modifying the SEC reference as proposed would not hamper its individualized non-automated advice features, the proposed modification is still nonobvious because it alters a basic operating principle of the LIMITrader system – input through individual terminals. Conversely, even if the Examiner believes that input through individual terminals is not a basic operating principle of the LIMITrader system, the proposed modification is still nonobvious because it would hamper the individualized non-automated advice features.

III. INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 52, 62, 105, 115, 148, AND 158 – 103 REJECTION – SEC REFERENCE

A. Claimed Features Lacking – Message Sending Component.

The Office Action (page 12) states that the SEC reference meets the message sending component/step defined in these claims. As support, the Office Action cites page 3 of the reference, which states “LIMITrader dials two calls at a time beginning with the longest standing orders first.”

This is incorrect. The “LIMITrader dials two calls at a time” language refers not to dialing the contraparties, but rather to dialing two existing-order parties that are each contra to the party with the just-submitted order.

In other words, LIMITrader does not send a match notification message to both contraparties, as clearly defined in the claim language “generating a prospective transaction message including the transaction indication corresponding to each of the matching entries, and further providing the prospective transaction message to the user locations associated with said corresponding user identities.”

Instead, LIMITrader sends a message only to the party with an existing order that is contra to a just-submitted order: “LIMITrader will dial-up the participant that entered the existing orders.” (see SEC

reference, page 3 at *8). LIMITrader does not notify the party with the just-submitted order, but rather relies on the existing-order party to respond to the notification message and contact the other party to begin the negotiation process: “The first participant so notified that responds to the incoming order may begin an automated negotiation process.” (see SEC reference, page 3 at *8.) Indeed, after notifying the existing-order party only, the LIMITrader system has nothing further to do with the parties unless a trade results: “The Company is not involved in such negotiation and is not aware that a negotiation is occurring or has occurred unless a trade results.” (see SEC reference, page 3 at *8).

Moreover, it cannot be said that the existing-order party acts as a proxy for the system in notifying the party with the just-submitted order of a match, because the existing-order party only contacts the party with the just-submitted order if it wants to. With LIMITrader, the existing-order party decides whether to contact – not the system.

Further, the SEC reference makes no mention of what its notification message contains (i.e., its content), and thus does not meet the part of these claims wherein the notification message is defined as “including the transaction message corresponding to each of the matching entries.”

Finally, modifying the SEC reference to meet these key claim aspects would not be obvious, because it would entail a wholesale change in the way the LIMITrader system operates. Such a change would clearly alter LIMITrader’s operating principles, and would thus not be obvious under MPEP 2143.01 and *In re Ratti*.

B. Claimed Features Lacking – Data Security Component.

The Office Action (pages 12-13) states that the SEC reference meets the data security component defined in these claims. As support, the Office Action cites page 9 of the reference, which states only that “The company has in place security procedures reasonably designed to (i) prevent unauthorized access to LIMITrader, both by employees of the Company or the clearing broker, by participants in the system and by persons not affiliated with the Company, the clearing broker or the system, and (ii) to safeguard the system against threats to the proper functioning of the system.”

This is incorrect. The claims define a very detailed, specific data security component, whereas the SEC reference merely outlines a very general security objective. In fact, the ‘one-sided notification’ that LIMITrader uses has significant negative implications for data security and confidentiality. After receiving the information that a match to his order exists, an existing-order party can opt not to respond and not negotiate (see SEC ref. page 3: ‘If the holder of an existing order does not wish to negotiate, no action is required.’). The existing-order party – and any other existing-order party notified by LIMITrader – thus gets valuable information that someone is selling what he’s buying, or vice-versa, without the contraparty ever knowing anything.

In sum, the LIMITrader system does not provide the total confidentiality that is a key objective of Applicant’s invention. The LimiTrader system does not prevent market/price movements that

result from knowledge getting out that a commodity is even being offered for sale or purchase, because existing-order parties get knowledge of a match whereas the party with the just-submitted order may not.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

Finally, because independent claims 1, 18, 35, 51, 52, 62, 78, 94, 105, 115, 121, 137, 148, and 158 define patentably over the prior art, their respective dependent claims 2-17, 19-34, 36-50, 68-77, 53-61, 63-67, 79-93, 95-104, 106-114, 116-120, 122-136, 138-147, 149-157, and 159-163 also define patentably for the same reasons.

V. INVENTOR INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Pursuant to MPEP § 2281, Applicant notes that the Interview Summary states that only Claims 1 and 118 were discussed in the November 8, 2007 interview. This is incorrect – instead, the interview included discussion of the above arguments with respect to all the independent claims (see Applicant's interview exhibits).

VI. EXAMINATION HISTORY

Applicant notes that this application has been exhaustively examined. As the following examination history shows, the claims were amended slightly in response to the first Office Action. Since then, there have been six successive Office Actions that have withdrawn the previous rejections, and applied new rejections grounds to substantially the same claimed subject matter.

1) 9/15/2005	Non-Final Office Action	Initial grounds of rejection
Response: Amended claims slightly		
2) 12/17/2005	Non-Final Office Action	Rejections withdrawn; new grounds of rejection applied.
Response: No claim amendments		

3) 1/27/2006 Non-Final Office Action Rejections withdrawn;
new grounds of rejection applied.

Response: No claim amendments

4) 4/12/2006 Non-Final Office Action Rejections withdrawn;
new grounds of rejection applied.

Response: No claim amendments

5) 9/5/2006 Non-Final Office Action Rejections withdrawn;
new grounds of rejection applied.

Response: No claim amendments

6) 6/14/2007 Non-Final Office Action Rejections withdrawn;
new grounds of rejection applied.

Response: No claim amendments

7) 10/31/2007 Non-Final Office Action Rejections withdrawn;
new grounds of rejection applied.

This Office practice is counter to 37 C.F.R. and MPEP:

"Switching from one set of references to another by the examiner in rejecting in successive actions claims of substantially the same subject matter, will tend to defeat attaining the goal of reaching a clearly defined issue for an early termination, i.e., either an allowance of the case or a final rejection." MPEP 706.07.

"On taking up an application for examination or a patent in a reexamination proceeding, the examiner shall make a thorough study thereof and shall make a thorough investigation of the available prior art relating to the subject matter of the claimed invention. The examination shall be complete with respect both to compliance of the application or patent under reexamination with the applicable statutes and rules and to the patentability of the invention as claimed, as well as with respect to matters of form, unless otherwise indicated." 37 CFR 1.104; MPEP 707.

"In rejecting claims for want of novelty or for obviousness, the examiner must cite the best references at his or her command." 37 CFR 1.104; MPEP 707.

CONCLUSION

For all of the above reasons, Applicant requests reconsideration of the obviousness rejections. Applicant submits that the claims all define patentably over the prior art, and that this application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully,

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12 November 2007

/John A. Galbreath/

APPENDIX

- 1) **Declaration of Steven Levy**
- 2) **Biography for Steven Levy**